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3430 Evaluation June 22, 1979

Plantation Evaluation for Root Disease,
Packwood Ranger District

Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot NF

On June 11, 1979, Gregory M. Filip, Pathologist, Regional Office, visited the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest for the purpose of examining sites to be used to evaluate growth of genetically superior trees. Growth of planted trees will be measured for at least 15 years. The sites were examined for root disease as evidenced by infected stumps of the former overstory. Greg was accompanied by Sheila Martinson, SO Forest Orchardist and Dave Fuller, District Forester. Three sites were examined.

Examination of above-ground portions of old-growth 2- to 3-foot diameter Douglas-fir stumps in the first unit, "Butter", revealed no obvious root diseases. The second unit, "Will," had smaller, 1- to 2-foot diameter Douglas-fir and western hemlock stumps. Only one small area (2-3 stumps) in "Will" had advanced decay caused by *Phellinus (Poria) weirii*. Unit #3, "Backbone Edge", had large, 2- to 3-foot diameter, Douglas-fir and cedar stumps with no detectable root disease. Stands surrounding all three units had no apparent mortality due to root disease.

Based on these observations, we see no pathological reason why the three sites cannot be used to evaluate superior tree growth. We recommend that "Will" trees be planted no closer than 50 to 75 feet to the *Phellinus weirii*-infected stumps. Loss of trees in all units through root disease contacted from infected stumps should be negligible within the 15-year measurement period and possibly several years thereafter.

PAUL E. BUFFAM

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cc: Sheila Martison, GP NF
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